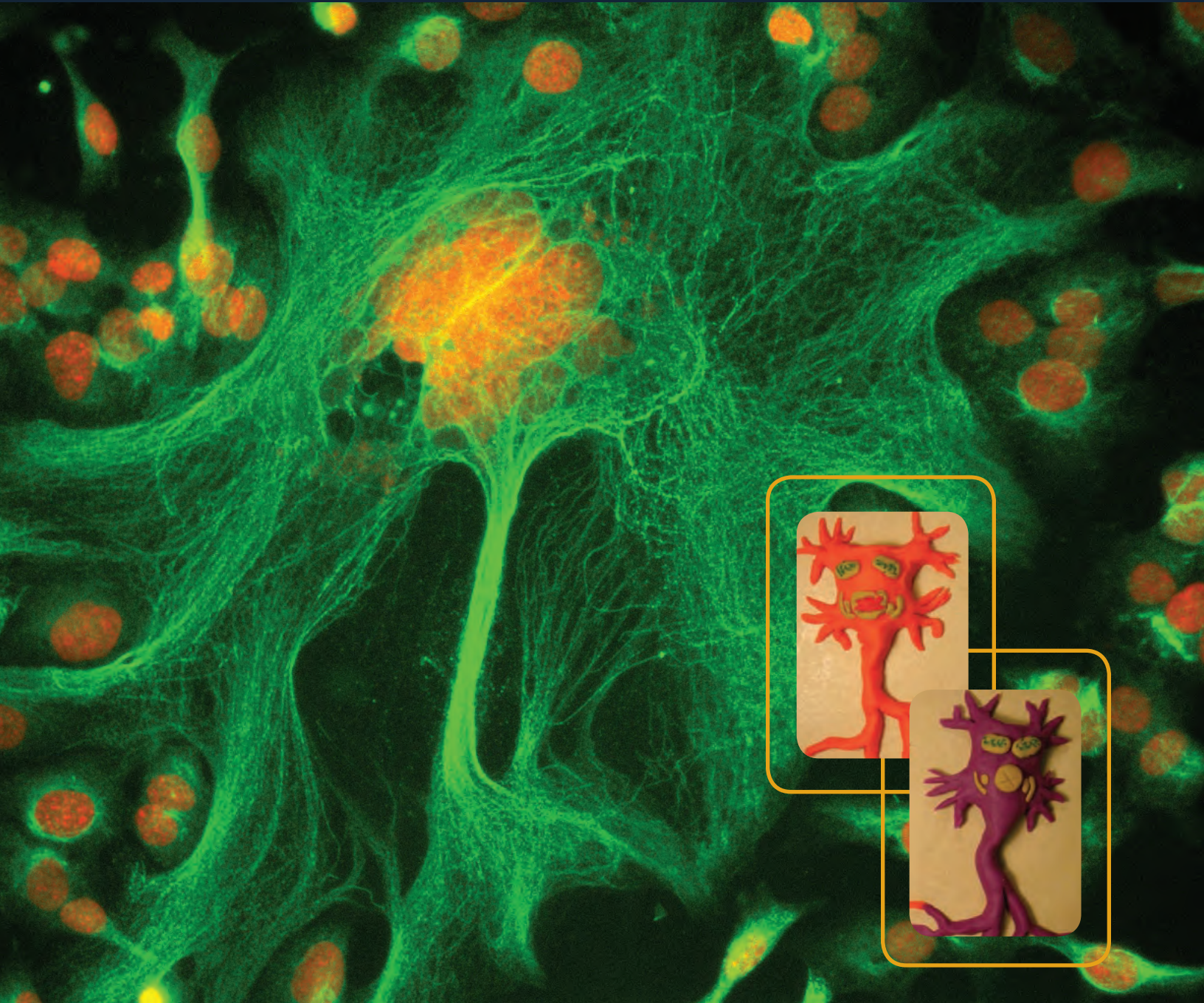


Spring 2012

GSBS NEWS

The University of Texas
GRADUATE SCHOOL of BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES *at Houston*




UTHealth[™]
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
Cancer Center
Making Cancer History®

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BACK COVER

Message to the Alumni:
Sol Bobst, Ph.D.
President 2011-2012
GSBS Alumni Association

Benefactor News

Zilkha Family Discovery Fellows Focus on Brain-Engineering

With a visionary desire to provide support for innovative research and the education of tomorrow's scientists, Nina Zilkha established two new full-stipend Discovery Fellowships. She first heard about Discovery Fellowships at the home of her friend Diana Hawkins during an Evening of Discovery created to introduce the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to a wider circle of the community. A few years later, after hosting her own Evening of Discovery for the School, and learning more about Discovery Fellowships, she decided it was important to encourage this idea of developing small pivotal groups to focus on a pioneering area of research. With several categories in mind, she asked Dr. George Stancel to pinpoint what he (who in turn consulted a cadre of faculty) believed would have a strong impact on a highly promising field of biomedical science, hence the final decision to tackle neuroengineering.



Stuart Red

Neuroengineering (also called brain-engineering) is an emerging discipline that employs engineering techniques to understand and improve the function of the nervous system, an area particularly useful after disease or trauma. It draws from a variety of disciplines including neuroscience, imaging, electronic systems, signal processing, machine learning and computational modeling.

The first Zilkha Family Discovery Fellows are two Ph.D. candidate students, Brittany Coughlin (her advisor is John H. Byrne, Ph.D.) and Stuart Red (his advisor is Anne Sereno, Ph.D.). These students' projects are anticipated to "catalyze" new research (with an innovative pioneering aspect) that is not currently supported by National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants. Their research will ideally lead to generation of sufficient results providing new information to give us a competitive edge in attaining new research grants, individual fellowships or training grants from the NIH. These accomplishments would move both research and the Graduate School forward in a significant way. Thank you to Mrs. Zilkha and her family... she is a pioneer in her own right!



Brittany Coughlin

FRONT COVER

Main image: Winning photo of an ovarian cancer cell in the GE Healthcare 2011 IN Cell Analyzer Image Competition, taken by Geoffrey Grandjean, graduate student in Dr. Garth Powis' laboratory in the Department of Experimental Therapeutics at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Inset images: Video stills from Society of Neuroscience Brain Awareness Video Contest third-place winning video "Synaptic Plasticity" by GSBS students Natalia Rozas and Julia Hill.



George Stancel, Ph.D., was appointed dean of The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston (GSBS) in May 1999, and since then he has played a major part in school events ranging from 14 commencement ceremonies to several Friday Afternoon Club activities. Here is a glimpse of “The Dean” from his impressive tenure.



George

Distinguished Alumnus

E. Antonio Chiocca, M.D., Ph.D. (1988/ Stein)

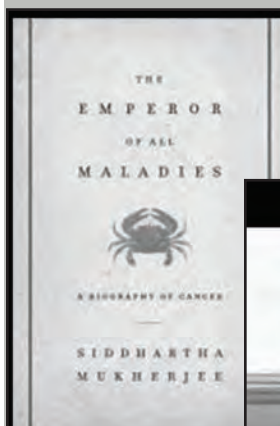


Distinguished Alumnus, E. Antonio Chiocca, M.D., Ph.D., is originally from Italy, but moved to Texas with his parents in 1979. He holds an undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at El Paso and graduated from UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 1988. After GSBS, Chiocca started a residency at Harvard via Massachusetts General Hospital where he started his work in biologic therapies of central nervous system disorders (CNS), functional genomics of brain tumors and the development of gene delivery systems

to the CNS. After his residency he became a faculty member with the institution. In 2004, Chiocca left Harvard to become the first chairman of the newly developed Department of Neurological Surgery at The Ohio State University. During his tenure he built the department from three faculty members to 25, sustaining \$11 million in external research funding yearly. He continues to lead the department and holds several other distinguished positions at Ohio State including the Dardinger Family Endowed Chair in Oncological Neurosurgery and leader of the neuroscience signature program at the School's medical center.

Chiocca and his wife, Charlotte, have four children: Cristina, Alex, Andrew and Austin.

These slides are highlights from Chiocca's presentation about why he became an M.D./Ph.D. presented at the evening Alumni Reunion event.



- Influences that shaped his educational path and decision to become an M.D./Ph.D.



Sidney Farber, MD
(1903-1973)

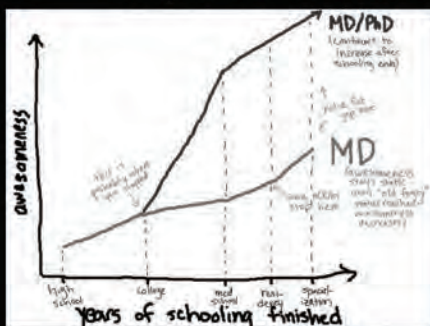
- Farber was a pediatric pathologist who worked at Harvard and Children's Hospital Boston.



James Augustine Shannon, MD PhD
August 9, 1904 — May 20, 1994

- Shannon was the director of National Institutes of Health (1955-1968) and won a Public Welfare Medal from the National Academy of Sciences.

Why MD/PhD?



<http://castrophany.net/thickasthieves/?p=537>

National Statistics

- 90 MD/PhD Programs Nationally
- 45 MSTP Programs Nationally

- National Average of MSTP's — 82 current students
- National Average of non-MSTP's — 30 current students
- Gender Breakdown: National Average* — 30% female — 70% male
- Attrition: National Average — ~13% for MSTP's, >20% for non-MSTP's
- Time to degrees: National Average — 7.9 ± 0.5 years

* Characteristics and Career Outcomes of the Emerging MD/PhD Workforce
JAMA. 2003;289(19):2417-2422



Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) Institutions

Why MD/PhD?



The Physician-Scientist Career Pipeline in 2005

JAMA. 294: 1343, 2005

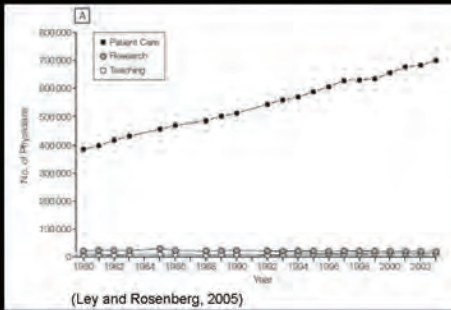
Build It, and They Will Come

These and other disturbing trends have led some thoughtful observers to conclude that the physician-scientist is an endangered species, or at least a threatened one.¹⁻¹⁶

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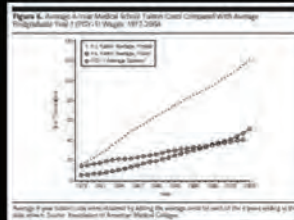
Distinguished Alumnus

If you have an MD after your name, the "default" tab is "TAKE CARE OF PATIENTS"!



Reasons for low research participation from clinicians (Levy and Rosenberg, 2005)

- Not due to lack of Medical Student Interest and Participation in Research, but more likely due to accrued debt and level of indebtedness



How about scientist-clinicians who choose/select surgical disciplines?

Characteristics and Career Intentions of the Emerging MD/PhD Workforce JAMA, 2008

Context: MD/PhD program participants represent only a small proportion of all US medical students, yet they are expected to play a major role in the future physician-scientist workforce. The characteristics and career intentions of recent MD/PhD program and other MD program graduates have not been compared.

Results: Of the 79 104 respondents with complete data (71.7% of all 2000-2006 graduates), 1833 (2.3%) were MD/PhD program graduates. Variables associated with greater likelihood of MD/PhD program graduation included planned substantial career involvement in research (OR, 10.30; 95% confidence interval [CI], 8.89-11.93); lower educational debt (compared with $\geq \$150,000$: \$100,000-\$149,999, OR, 1.85; 95% CI, 1.35-2.52; \$50,000-\$99,999, OR, 5.50; 95% CI, 4.14-7.29; \$1-\$49,999, OR, 7.50; 95% CI, 13.30-23.03; no debt, OR, 17.41; 95% CI, 13.22-22.92); and receipt of medical school scholarships or grants (OR, 3.22; 95% CI, 2.82-3.69). Compared with planned training in internal medicine, MD/PhD graduation was positively associated with planned training in dermatology, neurology, ophthalmology, pathology, pediatrics, or radiology. Variables associated with lower likelihood of MD/PhD graduation included female sex (OR, 0.68; 95% CI, 0.60-0.77); race/ethnicity underrepresented in medicine (OR, 0.64; 95% CI, 0.52-0.80); and, compared with internal medicine, planned training in emergency medicine (OR, 0.58; 95% CI, 0.40-0.84) or surgery (OR, 0.70; 95% CI, 0.57-0.85).

- Research showing statistics on physicians, researchers and M.D./Ph.D.s

Career Choice in Academic Medicine

Systematic Review

Sharon E. Straus, MD, MSc, FRCP^{1,2}; Christine Straus, BEd, MA²; Kotrina Ivanek, MD, MSc, FRCP^{1,2}, under the auspices of the International Campaign to Revitalize Academic Medicine
¹Division of General Internal Medicine, University Health Network, Toronto, Canada; ²Physician Assistant Program, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

- Completion of MD with additional graduate degree (3 surveys found that 90% of MD-PhD enter academia)
- Publication of research
- Intellectual stimulation
- Influence of a mentor/role model
- Length of training (negative)
- Factors related to leaving academia: financial and lack of autonomy

AAMC web site (www.aamc.org)

Most MD-PhD graduates pursue residency and fellowship training and find that their MD-PhD training makes them particularly attractive to residency programs at top academic institutions. In the past, MD-PhD graduates traditionally entered residency programs in medicine, pediatrics, or pathology. However, the clinical specialty choices of current graduates are more diverse, with many graduates pursuing residency training in neurology, psychiatry, radiology, radiation oncology, and even surgery and surgical specialties.

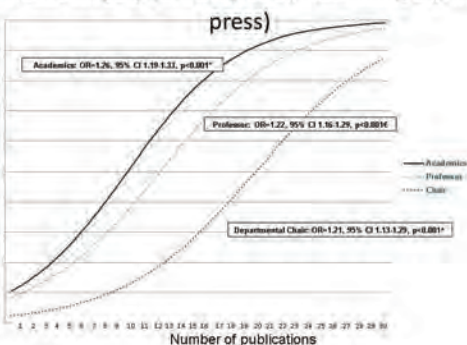
How about choice of academia by neurosurgical trainees or future trainees?



NS residency applicants with at least one peer-reviewed publication were 1.34 more likely to choose an academic career vs. private practice than those with no peer-reviewed publications.

- More reasons why or why not to choose the M.D./Ph.D. path

Factors predictive of staying in academic neurosurgery (Crowley et al, Neurosurgery, in press)



Conclusions

- Select individuals that have shown a history of committed excellence in some discipline without too much concern for financial reward.
- Make sure that they can publish during training period

But there are exceptions

RC BS Harvard Undergraduate MD-PhD Harvard Medical School (4 pubs in Nature, PNAS, JBC, Hum Genet) MGH Neurosurgery Residency (3 pubs in J Virology and Cancer Research)	Private Practice NS in Santa Barbara, CA
ES BS Dartmouth MD Dartmouth MGH Neurosurgery Residency (one review paper)	Associate Professor Of NS at HMS, K awardee

Distinguished Alumnus

My way

- Intellectual stimulation: Love for science, detective work, trying to find out answers...it has to be more of a "hobby" than "work".



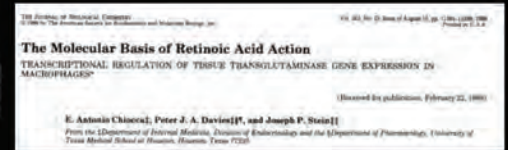
My way

- Relatively uninterested in financial reward...gratification comes more from feeling useful, empowered, creative, but also from others' admiration (Winning the "Nobel" rather than winning on Wall Street)



Research success is important

- The lab work has to lead to a peer-reviewed publication!



1982- Accepted to UTMSH/MDA
MD-PhD Program

1981- MD Anderson Undergraduate Summer Student Research



Juan Guevara, PhD
Assistant Professor of Urology
MDA (1981)

1982-1989 MD/PhD Program Director
Co-Advisor PhD Dissertation



Peter J. Davies, MD PhD
Professor of Pharmacology
UTH/ GSBS

- He continued his education at GSBS where he worked with Drs. Guevara and Davies.



GSBS FRIENDS/SUPPORT
Jim Basilion, PhD

Associate Professor Departments of Radiology and
Biomedical Engineering Case Center for Imaging

Research Director, NRCR Center for Molecular Imaging at
Case

Co-director of the cancer imaging program within the
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Treasurer of the World Molecular Imaging Society
(membership around 1500 scientists)



GSBS Friends/Support

Nickolas Papadopoulos, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Oncology
Director of Translational Genetics
Ludwig Center for Cancer Genetics & Therapeutics
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center
The Johns Hopkins Institutions



DAXX/ATRX, MEN1, and mTOR Pathway Genes Are Frequently Altered in Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors

Mutations in *CIC* and *FUBP1* Contribute to Human Oligodendroglioma

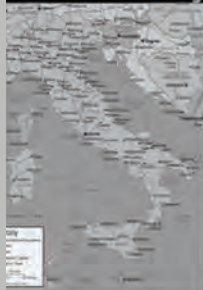
Science. 2011

1988- GRADUATED!

- Chiocca graduated from the Graduate School with an M.D./Ph.D. His doctoral thesis focused on the transcriptional regulation of transglutaminase by retinoids.

Distinguished Alumnus

My way



1980-1981 Chemistry Research Project



Keith H. Pannell, PhD
Professor of Chemistry
University of Texas at El Paso



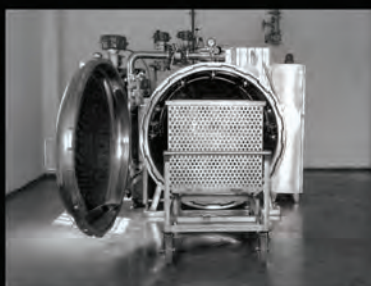
- Chiocca's family moved from Italy to El Paso, Texas, in 1979. There, he attended college at The University of Texas at El Paso where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1982.

1982-1988 dissertation advisor



Joe Stein, PhD
Associate Professor of
Pharmacology
SUNY-Upstate (current)

First encounter with an autoclave



GSBS

- David Loose
- George Stancel
- Paul Darlington
- Jack De Moss
- Buzz Cabral
- Henry Strobel

- His research studies continue...



1989-1995 – MGH Neurosurgery Residency (2-3 years of lab time)



Xandra Breakefield, PhD
Professor of Neurology
And Neurogenetics, HMS



Bob Martuza, MD
Professor and Chair of NS
MGH

2004-present: Ohio State



- In 2004, he became the first chairman of the newly developed Department of Neurological Surgery at The Ohio State University Medical Center, a post he still holds today.

- After graduation, he began his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, which he completed in 1995. He then joined the faculty at MGH as an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 1998.



Alumni Reunion 2011



Sarah Cloots

Behrang Amini



Lalla Goka

Tom Goka

Paul Chiao



Shirley Hammond



Ann Killary

Steve Lott



Brenda Whaley

Dorrie Lamb

Mike Cook



Cynthia Furlong

N. Burr Furlong



Vuvi Nguyen

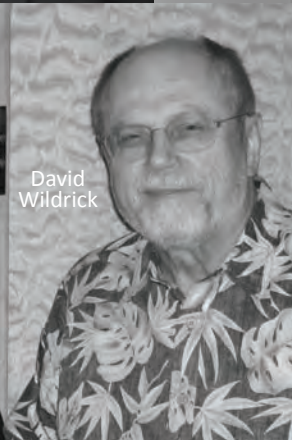
Julia Hill

Natalie Srirsaengtaksin



Sol Bobst

Ben Thomas



David Wildrick



Jim Hammond

Dianne Hammond

Jackie Peltier Horn

Gary Horn

Alumni Reunion 2011

Brenda
Gaughan

Paul
Nemeth

George
Stancel

Suneeta
Mahagaokar

Ben
Thomas

Stephen
Kry

Nathan
Childress

Laura
Rechner

Milton
Marshall

Marty
Marshall

Joya
Chandra

Taylor
Cutshall

Manley
Mandell

Audrey
Mandell

Peter
Davies

Eric
Solberg

Tré
O'Brien

E. Antonio
Chiocca

Jackie
Peltier Horn

Sol
Bobst

GSBS Faculty Membership Report



Dr. Kevin Morano
GSBS Faculty President
2011-2012

Report includes August and
December 2011 and
February 2012
Membership Committee
Meetings

MEMBERS REAPPOINTED WITH COMMENDATION

James A. Bankson	Michael C. Lorenz
Sharon R. Dent	William W. Mattox
David S. Followill	Jonathan C. Trent
Danielle A. Garsin	Chengming Zhu

MEMBERS REAPPOINTED WITH HIGHEST COMMENDATION

Andrew J. Bean	Pierre D. McCrea
Peng Huang	Dihua Yu

NEW REGULAR MEMBERS

Jichao Chen

Assistant Professor
Pulmonary Medicine
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, 2006
Research interests: lung development; organ size control; lung cancer

Taipeng Chen

Associate Professor
Molecular Carcinogenesis
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., McGill University, 2000
Research interests: epigenetic reprogramming during mammalian development; crosstalk between DNA methylation and histone modifications; epigenetic mechanisms in cancer and other diseases; stem cell biology

Lynda Chin

Professor and Chair
Genomic Medicine
MD Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 1993
Research interests: cancer genomics/epigenomics; functional genomics; system biology; melanoma; glioblastoma; metastasis; tumor microenvironment; mouse models

Ronald A. DePinho

Professor, Cancer Biology
President
MD Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 1981
Research interests: genetic aspects of cancer; translational research

Boyi Gan

Assistant Professor
Experimental Radiation Oncology
MD Anderson Cancer Center

Ph.D., Cornell University, 2006
Research interests: tumor suppressors; P13K pathway; cancer metabolism; stem cells; kidney cancer

Andrew B. Gladden

Assistant Professor
Genetics
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 2005
Research interests: cell polarity in tissue development; cell adhesion function in tumor progression; regulation of stem cell niche microenvironment; epidermal development and wound healing

Wenliang Li

Assistant Professor
Institute of Molecular Medicine
UTHealth Medical School
Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University, 2004
Research interests: cancer biology; novel cancer targets and drug discovery; signaling transduction; metastasis; kinases; functional screening

Seyed Javad M. Moghaddam

Assistant Professor
Pulmonary Medicine
MD Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Shaheed Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, 1996
Research interests: role of airway inflammation in lung carcinogenesis

Roza Nurieva

Assistant Professor
Immunology
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Pushchino State University (Russia), 1999
Research interests: immune tolerance; autoimmunity; developmental regulation of T helper subsets; tumor immunology

Guang Peng

Assistant Professor
Clinical Cancer Prevention
MD Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Tongji Medical University, 2002
Ph.D., University of South Carolina, 2005
Research interests: cancer prevention; genomic instability; DNA repair; replication stress; epigenetic regulation

Sarah J. Plowman

Assistant Professor
Integrative Biology and Pharmacology
UTHealth Medical School
Ph.D., University of Edinburgh, 2003
Research interests: molecular mechanisms regulating EGFR activation and function; dysregulation of EGFR function in human cancer; plasma membrane domains; spatial organization of membrane proteins

Oleh M. Pochynyuk

Assistant Professor
Integrative Biology and Pharmacology
UTHealth Medical School
Ph.D., Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology National
Academy of Science - Kiev, 2003
Research interests: renal sodium reabsorption;
ENaC, renal hypertension; distal nephron;
microdissection of renal nephron, immunofluores-
cent approaches

Sean M. Post

Assistant Professor
Leukemia
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., The University of Texas Health Science
Center at San Antonio, 2003
Research interests: mouse models; modulation of
the p53 pathway; tumorigenesis; hematological
malignancies

Sean I. Savitz

Associate Professor
Neurology
UTHealth Medical School
M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 2000
Research interests: stroke; brain hemorrhage; stem
cells; cell therapy; recovery; neuroscience

Francisco Vega-Vazquez

Associate Professor
Hematopathology
MD Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., University Complutense of Madrid College of
Medicine, 1992
Ph.D., University of Navarra, 1997
Research interests: signal transduction; hedgehog
signaling; malignant lymphomas; interactions
microenvironment-lymphoma; targeted therapy

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

David S. Hong

Assistant Professor
Investigational Cancer Therapeutics
MD Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 1999
Research interests: new drug development;
phase I studies; molecular basis for cancer
therapy; new combinatorial phase I studies;
novel protocol designs

Filip Janku

Assistant Professor
Investigational Cancer Therapeutics
MD Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Charles University (Czech Republic), 1999
Ph.D., Charles University (Czech Republic), 2007
Research interests: oncogenic mutations; next
generation sequencing; P13K/AKT/mTOR
pathway; autophagy; therapeutic targets;

molecular aberrations in histiocytic disorders

Heng Li

Assistant Professor
Radiation Physics
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Virginia, 2006
Research interests: radiation physics; proton
radiation therapy; image guided radiation therapy

Wei Liu

Assistant Professor
Radiation Physics
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Princeton University, 2007
Research interests: 4D treatment planning in
intensity-modulated proton therapy (IMPT);
robust optimization in IMPT; image guided
proton therapy; high-performance computing

Adrienne S. McCampbell

Instructor
Pathology
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., UT-GSBS H, 2006
Research interests: endometrial carcinogenesis;
cancer prevention; preclinical models of obesity
and cancer

Aung Naing

Assistant Professor
Investigational Cancer Therapeutics
MD Anderson Cancer Center
M.D., Hacettepe University (Turkey), 1997
Research interests: phase I studies; drug
development; targeted therapy

Julianne M. Pollard

Instructor
Radiation Physics
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 2008
Research interests: radiation physics

Jianjun Shen

Associate Professor
Molecular Carcinogenesis
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., Rutgers University, 1992
Research interests: skin cancer models;
pancreatic cancer; early detection; biomarkers;
proteomics; gene expression

Francesco C. Stingo

Assistant Professor
Biostatistics
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ph.D., University of Florence (Italy), 2010
Research interests: Bayesian variable selection;
bioinformatics; data integration; graphical models;
high-dimensional data; models for sample selection
bias; wavelet-based statistical methods



Michelle Barton, Ph.D., (pictured left with Dean Stancel) was awarded the **Paul E. Darlington, Ph.D. Faculty Mentor Award** for 2011-2012. This award recognizes excellent mentoring through recognition of outstanding mentors.

Carmen Dessauer, Ph.D., professor of integrative biology and pharmacology, was named a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal *Science*. Dessauer is one of 539 AAAS members who were recognized at the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Feb. 18, 2012.

Jacqueline Hecht, Ph.D., M.S., board-certified medical-geneticist specializing in disorders related to bone growth, and professor of pediatrics, received the 2011 REACH Research Award from the MHE Research Foundation for her research in locating the genes that cause Multiple Hereditary Exostoses (MHE), a genetic bone disorder. Hecht received the award at the foundation's research banquet on Sept. 25, 2011, in New York. She has also been appointed the new associate dean for research at The UT School of Dentistry.

Raymond E. Meyn, Ph.D., professor and member of GSBS' Medical Physics and Cancer Biology Programs, and MD Anderson's Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology, was honored with a retirement reception on Aug. 19, 2011.

Kate Wilson, M.S., C.G.C., clinical instructor with the GSBS' Genetic Counseling Program and the Medical School's Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, received the New Leader Award from the National Society of Genetics at the Society's annual education conference in San Diego, Calif., on Oct. 29, 2011.

Sigma Xi honors Millicent Goldschmidt, Ph.D., with lecture series.

Mimi Goldschmidt, Ph.D., GSBS professor of microbiology and molecular genetics and a faculty member of The UT School of Dentistry, was honored with a fund and lecture created in her name for her dedication to science education by The Rice University-Texas Medical Center Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society. The Millicent Goldschmidt Lecture Series had its inaugural event June 30, 2011, at the Chevron BAX Auditorium in Bellaire, and featured scholarly presentations by two high school Sigma Xi Award winners from Houston's 2010 and 2011 Science and Engineering Fair.



DOCTOR OF MEDICINE/ DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

*These recipients were awarded dual degrees in Spring 2011

Chan, Suzanne (Sandy Chang, M.D., Ph.D.)
Modeling Sporadic Tumor Formation Driven by Telomere Dysfunction in the Gastrointestinal Tract

Choe, Jennifer (Craig Logsdon, Ph.D.)
Altered Responses to Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress in Pancreatic Cancer

Jung, Youngsin (Joseph McCarty, Ph.D.)
Analysis of Band 4.1B in Integrin-Mediated Cell Adhesion and Signaling

Levin, Pavel (Craig Logsdon, Ph.D.)
Role and Regulation of EPHA2 in Pancreatic Cancer

Nath, Audrey (Michael Beauchamp, Ph.D.)
The Neural Substrates of Multisensory Speech Perception

Ozawa, Michael (Wadih Arap, M.D., Ph.D.)
Targeting the Blood-Brain Barrier with a Non-Canonical Iron-Mimicry Mechanism

Patel, Chirag (Ponnada Narayana, Ph.D.)
Effect of Acute Administration of Angiopoietin-1 in Experimental Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury: Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Neurobehavioral Studies

Welsh, Kerry (Jeffrey Actor, Ph.D.)
Immune Modulation of the Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Granulomatous Response

Six students received the 2011 Medical School Dean's Research Scholarship Awards. The awards are given to GSBS students who have achieved distinction in biomedical research. Each student receives a \$2,500 scholarship. This year awardees were:

Lauren C. Elmore
Jennifer Dulin
Bryan Hansen

Anu Rambhadran
R. Michelle Reith
Shiraj Sen

The 2011 Annual UTHealth Scholarship Golf Classic raised funds for 47 student scholarships that were distributed among the six schools at UTHealth. Recipients from GSBS were:

Sherille Bradley **Heather Danhof** **Charles Darkoh**

Madeline Farley has been selected as the recipient of the 2011-2012 Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). Dr. Thomas F. Burks was an outstanding researcher, an inspirational teacher, an academic leader and a friend to faculty and students.

Jennifer Juarez, a student in microbiology and molecular genetics, received fellowships from the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to research the spread of *Escherichia coli*, a hard-to-treat bacterium that can lead to food poisoning.

Student Interaction

Whether it's wearing ghoulish garb at the 2011 Halloween Friday Afternoon Club, or career planning at Mocktails Career Seminar, GSBS students know how to mix studies with fun.



Alumni News

Sybil Cooper, Ph.D. (Owen/1996) reports that she is now a Team Beachbody Coach for the fitness program by the same name. She and fellow GSBS Alumnus, David Cooper (Pellis /1998), who is an associate director for Pfizer, have three children.

A. Ben Goins, M.S. (Waxham/2008) is now working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Vicksburg District in Mississippi.

John J. Kopchick, Ph.D. (Arlinghaus/1980) was honored with a newly endowed research chair at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-HCOM). The John J. Kopchick, Ph.D., Osteopathic Heritage Foundations Endowed Eminent Research Chair was announced at a Jan. 17 luncheon, and will be held by a researcher to be recruited into the OU-HCOM Department of Biomedical Sciences in 2016. Kopchick was the 2006 GSBS Distinguished Alumnus.

Molianne Murray, Ph.D. (Keyomarsi/2007) and husband James recently had a baby boy: Ethan James Murray (9lb., 7 oz.)

Ming Tan, M.D., Ph.D. (Yu/2000) was promoted to associate professor of Oncologic Sciences and awarded tenure in September 2011 at the University of South Alabama.

Catherine Wicklund, M.S., C.G.C. (1993/Hecht) received the Strategic Leader Award from the National Society of Genetics at the Society's annual education conference in San Diego, Calif., on Oct. 29, 2011.

Wei Yu, Ph.D. (1995/Leibowitz) and his wife, Fei Lu, M.D., have just sold their company, SeqWright Inc., to GE Healthcare which will help expand GE's capabilities in the fast-growing molecular diagnostic segment of the market.

Student Awards

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Since 1971 the American Legion Auxiliary has provided scholarships for GSBS students involved in cancer research. The money for this funding is raised through a wide range of Auxiliary activities. To date the Auxiliary has raised more than \$1,150,000 to present more than 80 renewable scholarships which currently are \$5,000 each. The recipients for 2011-2012 are:



(not pictured) Jacquelyn Reuther

Students

Brian Pickering
Sarah Scarboro
Howard Rosoff
Tamara Laskowski
Nathan Ihle
Connie Larsson
Drew Deniger
Hillary Caruso
Teresa Yiu

Advisors

Dr. Dihua Yu
Dr. Stephen Kry
Dr. Dean Lee
Dr. Brian Davis
Dr. Garth Powis
Dr. Guillermina Lozano
Dr. Laurence Cooper
Dr. Laurence Cooper
Dr. Michelle Barton
Dr. Ann Killary



THE R. W. (BILL) BUTCHER AWARD

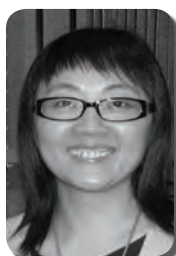
Established in 1997, the R. W. (Bill) Butcher Endowed Fund provides an annual award of \$2,500 for students who demonstrate excellence in research, have a commitment to a career in biomedical research, and make a professional contribution to the community or have faced a particular challenge. This year's recipient is:

Student

Jennifer Abrams

Advisor

Dr. Kevin Morano



THE CITY FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Established in 2005, this \$2,500 scholarship rewards an exceptional GSBS student who is working in an area vital to the biomedical sciences and of particular current significance in that year's national research perspective. For 2011-2012 The City Federation of Women's Clubs Scholarship focus is biomedical imaging. This year's recipients are:

Student

Ale Klauer
Jenny Liu

Advisor

Dr. Ambro van Hoof
Dr. Peng Huang



THE CULLEN TRUST FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PHYSICIAN/SCIENTIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The \$1.15 million grant from the Cullen Trust for Higher Education provides dramatic growth opportunities for M.D./Ph.D. students at UTHealth, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Baylor College of Medicine all through GSBS. The 2011-2012 recipients are:

Marisa Hornbaker, UTHealth
Michael Gundry, Baylor College of Medicine
Deepankar Mohanty, Baylor College of Medicine

ISAIAH J. FIDLER GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN CANCER METASTASIS

This Fellowship is provided by the graduate program in Cancer Metastasis Research: From Bench to Bedside. It provides a \$3,000 supplement to the GSBS graduate assistantship and may be renewed for up to three years. It is awarded to a pre-candidacy Ph.D. student whose research is related to cancer metastasis. The renewed recipient for 2011-2012 is:

Student	Advisor
Frank Lowery	Dr. Dihua Yu



GIGLI FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

This \$1,000 endowed scholarship was created by Dr. Irma Gigli, GSBS faculty member and deputy director emerita of The Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine, to honor her parents. The scholarship is intended to help exceptional graduate students who are making excellent progress towards their degree, particularly those who are first generation in their family to enroll in graduate school. The recipient for 2011-2012 is:

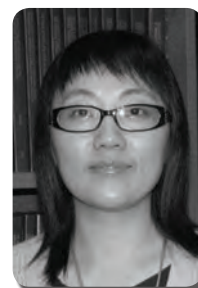
Student	Advisor
Jessica Galloway-Pena	Dr. Barbara Murray



FLOYD HAAR, M.D., ENDOWED MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD IN MEMORY OF FREDA HAAR

This \$1,500 award is provided to recognize an exceptional GSBS student conducting critical research in the area of stem cells as it applies to leukemia, or the study of stem cells and their use in treatment of human disease. The recipient for this year is:

Student	Advisor
Jenny Liu	Dr. Peng Huang



THE JACQUELINE T. HECHT FOUNDING DIRECTOR SCHOLARSHIP

This \$1,000 scholarship created in 2010 to honor Dr. Jacqueline T. Hecht, Founding Director of the Program in Genetic Counseling, is to be used to help recruit exceptional new students or award outstanding current students in the Genetic Counseling program. The recipient for 2011-2012:

Student	Advisor
Nicole Mohrbacher	Ms. Claire Singletary



ROSALIE B. HITE FELLOWSHIP

In 1946 Houston citizen Rosalie B. Hite left her entire estate to establish a fellowship program for cancer research. In 2011-2012 this award is for \$28,400 and includes stipend, tuition and fees, plus a single travel allowance up to \$850 for each student to present his or her research at a national meeting. The recipients are:

Student	Advisor
Nahir Cortes Santiago	Dr. Candelaria Gomez-Manzano
John Eley	Dr. Rebecca Howell
Brian Pickering	Dr. Dihua Yu
Jacquelyn Reuther	Dr. Ann Killary
Howard Rosoff	Dr. Dean Lee
Feng Wang	Dr. Peng Huang
Wei-Lei Yang	Dr. Hui-Kuan Lin

Student Awards



THE T. C. HSU ENDOWED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

To remember Dr. Hsu and his remarkable research, his daughter Margaret established this memorial scholarship in 2003. Early supporters included MD Anderson Cancer Center Foundation, colleagues, faculty, friends and former students of Dr. Hsu. The endowment is a living testimony and serves to acknowledge the stellar research accomplishments of graduate students focusing on Dr. Hsu's areas of research: genetics and cell biology. The 2011-2012 recipient is:

Student

Deepavali Chakravarti

Advisor

Dr. Elsa Flores



WILLIAM W. AND PEARL WALLIS KNOX FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2007, this is the fifth year to award a scholarship from the Knox Foundation whose interests are research in the areas of AIDS and other infectious diseases in humans. This \$2,500 award is presented to:

Student

Charles Darkoh

Advisor

Dr. Herbert DuPont



MARILYN & FREDERICK R. LUMMIS, JR., M.D., FELLOWSHIP IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Dr. and Mrs. Lummis made a generous gift to GSBS to create this award given for scientific excellence and innovation in any area of biomedical research. This \$25,000 stipend award given each year is intended to encourage novel research with a high potential to impact the particular field of study and ultimately human health. The 2011-2012 recipient:

Student

Katie McCallum

Advisor

Dr. Danielle Garsin



DEE S. & PATRICIA OSBORNE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE NEUROSCIENCES

Established by the Linda and Ronny Finger Foundation in 2001-2002, this endowed scholarship honors former University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Development Board president, Dee Osborne, and his wife Patricia. In 2006, the Ralph H. and Ruth J. McCullough Foundation made an additional generous gift in support of this award. Through the endowment, an award of \$1,000 is provided to the winning presenter in the graduate student category at the Annual Neuroscience Scientific Poster Session, and an additional \$500 allotment is given for travel to a scientific meeting. This year the recipient is:

Student

Bryan Hansen

Advisor

Dr. Valentin Dragoi



PRESIDENTS' RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Through generous funding from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston President *ad interim* Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D., and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center President, Ronald A. DePinho, M.D., recognition is given to advanced GSBS students who have demonstrated excellence in research. This year's recipients each received a cash award of \$5,000 and are shown here, left to right:

Students

Kedryn Baskin
Chien-Hung Chen
Bryan Hansen
Caitlin Elmore

Advisors

Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier
Dr. Dos Sarbossov
Dr. Valentin Dragoi
Dr. Anthony Wright

THE FADINE JACKSON ROQUEMORE SCHOLARSHIP IN CANCER RESEARCH

Established in 2012 by a longtime supporter of GSBS graduate students, this \$3,250 scholarship encourages and rewards a very promising graduate doctoral student. The recipient for 2011-2012:

Student

Kaitlin Gutierrez

Advisor

Dr. Ellen Richie



SAM TAUB AND BEATRICE BURTON FELLOWSHIP IN VISION DISEASE

Mary Wright and her sister, Joanna Ross, established this \$2,000 endowed fellowship in 2004. The Sam Taub and Beatrice Burton Fellowship in Vision Disease honors their grandfather and great aunt and supports excellence in the research of eye and sight-related problems, and the potential therapies. The 2011-2012 recipient is:

Student

Jennifer Churchill

Advisor

Dr. Stephen Daiger



TZU CHI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The Tzu Chi Foundation provides this \$1,000 Scholarship to recognize and assist outstanding GSBS doctoral students. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate both excellence in academic achievement and persistent community involvement. Students must be in a Ph.D. program; in good academic standing in GSBS; and making timely progress toward completion of their degree. Current award recipients:

Student

Taylor Schoberle
Matthew White
Sarah Eagleman

Advisor

Dr. Gregory May
Dr. David McConkey
Dr. Valentin Dragoi



NANCY BEAMER WILLERSON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS IN GENETIC COUNSELING

This scholarship was established in honor of former UTHealth President James T. Willerson and Nancy Beamer Willerson, who were longtime supporters of the GSBS. The endowment provides two \$1,000 scholarships for genetic counseling. This year only an incoming student was named:

Student

Katherine Dempsey

Advisor

Ms. Claire Singletary



ROBERTA M. & JEAN M. WORSHAM ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE BEHAVIORAL AND NEUROSCIENCES

This endowed scholarship of \$1,500 fosters exceptional students working in the fields of the behavioral sciences or neurosciences particularly in the areas of addiction or obsessive/compulsive behavior. The recipient for 2011-2012 is:

Student

Joseph Alcorn III

Advisor

Dr. Scott Lane



In Memory

Robert Boston Hurlbert, Ph.D. (1926-2011): Dr. Hurlbert was the chief of the Section of Nucleotide Metabolism at The UT MD Anderson Hospital from 1962-1985. A professor of biochemistry, he was also a teacher and mentor to students at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. His research into DNA synthesis helped lead the development of anti-cancer drugs.

David Jendiroba, M.D., Ph.D. (1964-2011): Jendiroba, a Brazil native, graduated in 2002 and studied cancer biology.

Patrick Stafford, Ph.D. (1950-2011): Stafford was a GSBS graduate and an associate professor at The University of Texas. He was a medical physicist and specialized in radiation therapy.

Project Grad receives award

In February, Project GRAD received one of the 2012 CollegeKeys Compact Innovation Awards from The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center. GSBS Outreach, under Assistant Dean for Outreach and Minority Affairs, Tom Goka, Ph.D., operates Project Grad's Biology Academy for 30 local high school students who are at risk of not completing high school but are likely to qualify for Advanced Placement Biology. Project GRAD will receive \$5,000 to help expand or sustain the program.

New staff member



Tracey Barnett joined GSBS in February 2012 as the new communication specialist. Barnett is a Houston native and a graduate from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in communications/public relations. Before joining the GSBS staff, she worked as the administrative manager for a local non-profit art center called DiverseWorks ArtSpace, which brought visual, performing and literary arts to Houstonians. There she managed day-to-day operations, coordinated major fundraisers and managed a re-granting program that benefitted Texas artists. Barnett has also worked as an online copy editor and news desk/feature copy editor for the Houston Chronicle.

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Age	Rate (One Life)	Rate (Two Lives)
60	4.4	3.9
65	4.7	4.2
70	5.1	4.6
75	5.8	5.0
80	6.8	5.7
85	7.8	6.7
90	9.0	8.2

Special Thanks and Gratitude

July 1, 2011 - March 20, 2012

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*Advisory Council members

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a whole awful lot, nothing is
going to get better. It's not.*

- The Lorax, Dr. Seuss

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Deadline for news to be included in the next newsletter is July 1, 2012

Hi Alumni,

You will find old news and new news in this issue of the newsletter. Check out the Reunion photos inside along with those of the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus, E. Antonio Chiocca, M.D., Ph.D. (1988). Later on in the fall we initiated a new idea called Mocktails Career Seminars to provide current students with practical tips about networking, interviewing, the difference between CVs/Resumes and generally putting your best foot forward to land a job in industry if that is your interest.

Right now we are forging ahead to what has been termed one of the “best graduations in the City”— and you are welcome to attend—GSBS’ own Commencement at Rice University Stude Concert Hall, 10 a.m., Saturday, May 5. Our upcoming graduates can start the festivities a few nights early at the Graduation Celebration reception in their honor (along with their families) in the GSBS atrium, 5-7 p.m., Thursday, May 3.

Career Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 16, and several alumni stars are tapped to present their professional story to GSBS students wanting information about the many career paths open to graduates in the biomedical sciences. If you’re an alum who’s been invited to speak, thank you, and if you are one who’d like to participate, please volunteer—let me know (smbobst@yahoo.com) or call Linda Carter, 713.500.9865.

Finally, thank you to my tried and true team of Steering Committee members, and welcome to new members Melissa Adams-Singh, Ph.D. (2008) and Chris Singh, Ph.D. (2011). One of my personal goals, in addition to encouraging an active E-Mentoring program, is to focus on where GSBS Alumni are located and see if we can’t energize cross-country opportunities for participation.

Best regards,



Sol Bobst, Ph.D. (2003)
GSBS Alumni Association President
2011-2012

